**Regularisation of Out-of-turn allotment of Petrol Pumps etc.**

4104. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an all-party meet has been convened on regularisation of out-of-turn allotment of petrol pumps, gas agencies etc.;

(b) if so, the outcome of the meeting; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration. Government has abolished the system of discretionary allotments.

**Pilferage of diesel from Pipeline**

4105. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than one lakh litres of diesel gets pilfered every three months from the Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline in Gujarat region;

(b) whether similar pilferage has been noticed in other parts of the country and if so, the details thereof;

(c) how much loss Government has suffered till date; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to check it and with what results during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) IOC have reported 16 incidents of oil pilferage since the commissioning of Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline in December, 1995, out of which 10 are in the State of Gujarat and the remaining 6 are in the State of Rajasthan, resulting in total loss of diesel due to pilferage as 4017 KLs including 3625 KLs in Gujarat.

(d) The matter was taken up with State Governments of Gujarat & Rajasthan for taking appropriate action. FIRs have also been lodged in cases of pilferage. For ensuring safety of pipeline IOC has also intensified patrolling of pipeline including helicopter surveillance.

**सरकारी समितियों को गैस की एजेंसियों का आवंटन**

4106. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी :** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने कुछ सहकारी समितियों को गैस की एजेंसियां देने हेतु इंडियन आयल कार्पोरेशन तथा सरकार से अनुरोध किया है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि 19 उपभोक्ता सहकारी समितियों को ऐजेंसियां दिये जाने का प्रस्ताव है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस प्रस्ताव को कब तक स्वीकृति दिये जाने की संभावना है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार): (क) जी, हां इंडियन आयल कार्पोरेशन ने बताया है कि उन्हें रजिस्ट्रार, सहकारी समितियां, उत्तर प्रदेश से एक पत्र प्राप्त हुआ है जिसमें उत्तर प्रदेश उपभोक्ता सहकारी संघ लिमिटेड को बरेली तथा लखनऊ मंडलों के अधीन 19 स्थानों पर एल पी जी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिपें देने के लिए अनुरोध किया गया है।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(घ) विद्यमान नीति के मुताबिक सहकारी समितियां सरकार द्वारा एल पी जी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिपों के सीधे आबंटन के लिए पात्र नहीं है। सरकार द्वारा डीलरशिपों/ डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिपों का सीधा आवंटन नहीं किया जा रहा है। सहकारी समिति डीलर चयन बोर्डों के माध्यम से सामान्य चयन प्रकिया के अनुसार विज्ञापनों के प्रति डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिपों के आवंटन के लिए प्रत्येक श्रेणी के प्रति आवेदन कर सकती है।

**Insufficient allotment of Kerosene to Kerala**

4107. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NAUTRAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the

fishing community engaged in sea fishing using mechanised boats can not do fishing throughout the year owing to the shortage of kerosene in Kerala due to insufficient allotment of kerosene to the State: and

(b) whether Government will review the quota of ker ene to the State keeping in mind the genuine need to fishermen community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Central Government makes only bulk allocation of kerosene to the States/UTs. Its retail distribution to different sections of the community in different areas within the State is the responsibility of the State Government.

Allocation of kersosene is made on historical basis, i.e., past year's supplies plus additional allocation out of increase given at national level. Kerosene is a deficit product and more than 40% of our requirements are met through imports. Requests are received from State Governments for additional allocation of kerosene from time to time. However, on account of constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy involved, it is not possible to meet fully such demands always; possible increase, however, is given, out of the additional availability at the country level, in accordance with a formula, under which higher allocation, out of additional quantity, is given to States with lower per capita availability, so as to reduce inter-State disparity over a period of time. Accordingly, an increase of 3.61% has been made in the allocation of kerosene to Kerala for the year 1998-99. This increase amounts to an additional quantity of 10466 MTs. The State Government may meet the requirements of the fishermen community from this additional quantity.

**Oil Exploration Projects in North-Eastern Region**

4108. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of oil exploration projectss in the North-Eastern region;

(b) how many new projects have been sanctioned during the last three years;

(c) what are the reassons for poor response of private sector participation in oil exploration in the North-Eastern region; and

(d) the details of steps taken to attract more private investment in oil exploration in the North-Eastern region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Currently ONGC is carrying out exploratory drilling and seismic surveys in the States of Assam (Lower Assam region) and Tripura. OIL is carrying out similar activity in the State of Assam (Upper Assam) and Arunachal Pradesh. In addition to the exploration activities of ONGC and OIL, Government of India has also awarded contracts for exploration of oil and gas for seven blocks in the North-Eastern Region, of which contracts have already been signed for three blocks in Assam-Arakan basin. Contracts have also been awarded for development of a medium-sized field Kharsang in Arunachal Pradesh and a small-sized field Amguri in Assam.

In order to give a boost to the exploration and production of hydrocarbons in the country including the North-Eastern Region, Government has announced a liberal New Exploration Licencing Policy. This provides inter-alia a tax holiday for seven years after commencement of commercial production from the fields and exemption from payment of signature, discovery or production bonus and cess.

**गुजरात तेलशोधक कारखाने की विद्युत उत्पादन परियोजना की स्थिति**

4109. श्री अनन्तराव देवशंकर दवे: क्या पैट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गुजरात तेलशोधक कारखाने की विद्युत उत्पादन परियोजना की वर्तमान स्थिति क्या है;

(ख) क्या इस परियोजना में कुछ अड़चने हैं;